



How to Perform an IBM ThinkPad X60s Fan Spindle Replacement

This guide details an IBM ThinkPad X60s fan spindle replacement.

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INTRODUCTION

This guide details how to replace the rotating spindle piece inside of the fan. Replacing this piece can solve cooling and noise problems associated with a broken fan. The fan spindle is only accessible after exposing the bottom of the motherboard and removing the fan housing.



TOOLS:

- [Small Needle Nose Pliers](#) (1)
- [Phillips #1 Screwdriver](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [IBM ThinkPad X60s Fan Spindle](#) (1)

Step 1 — Fan Spindle



- Turn the laptop upside-down, with the battery oriented away.
- Slide the battery lock switch to the left.

Step 2



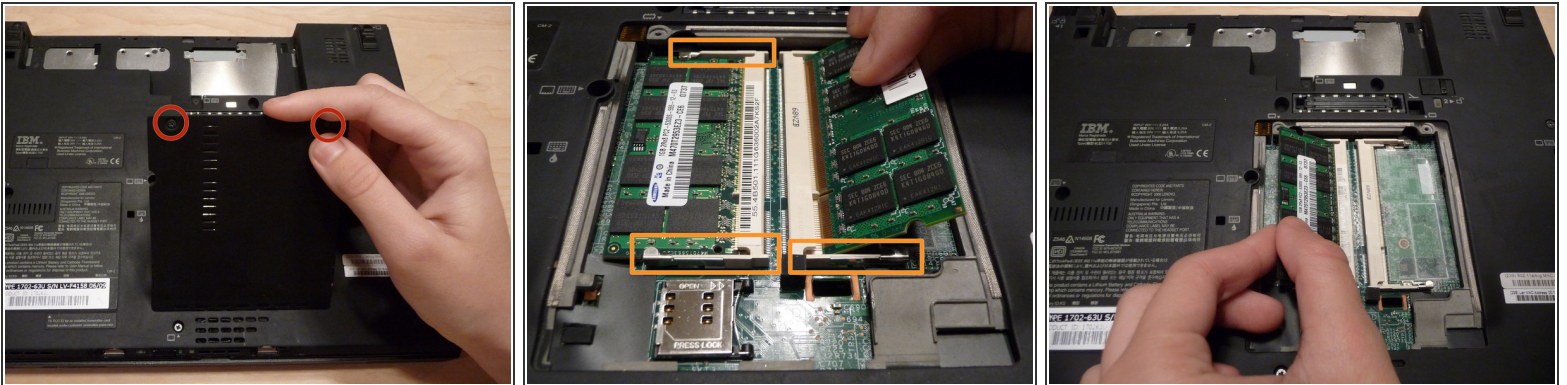
- ⚠ Complete these steps after disconnecting the laptop from power and after powering the laptop down.
- Simultaneously complete the following:
 - Slide and hold the battery release switch to the right.
 - Push the battery away from you, out of the back of the laptop.

Step 3



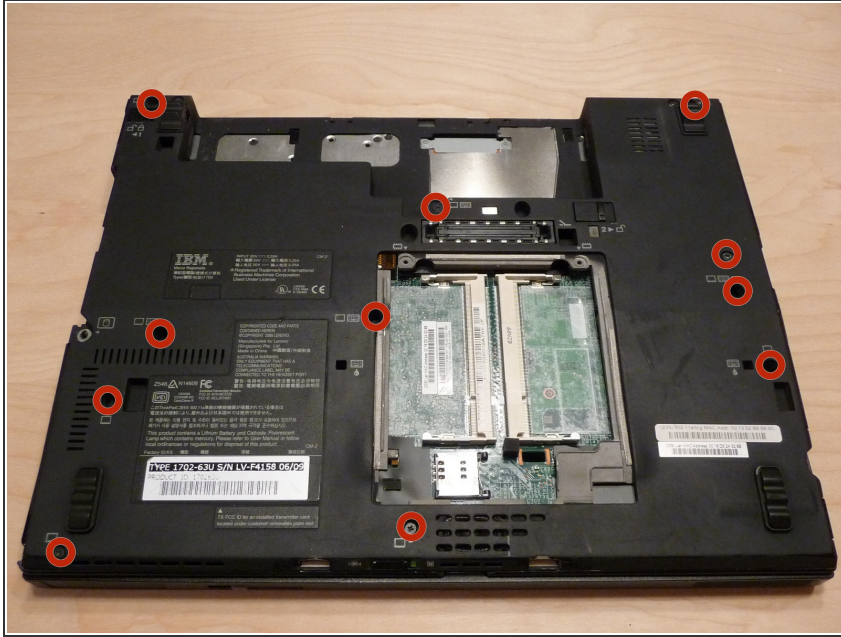
- Unscrew the black 4mm Phillips #2 screw securing the hard drive enclosure cover.
- Pull the hard drive enclosure cover up and to the left to expose the hard drive caddy.
- Pull the hard drive caddy out by the plastic pull tab.

Step 4



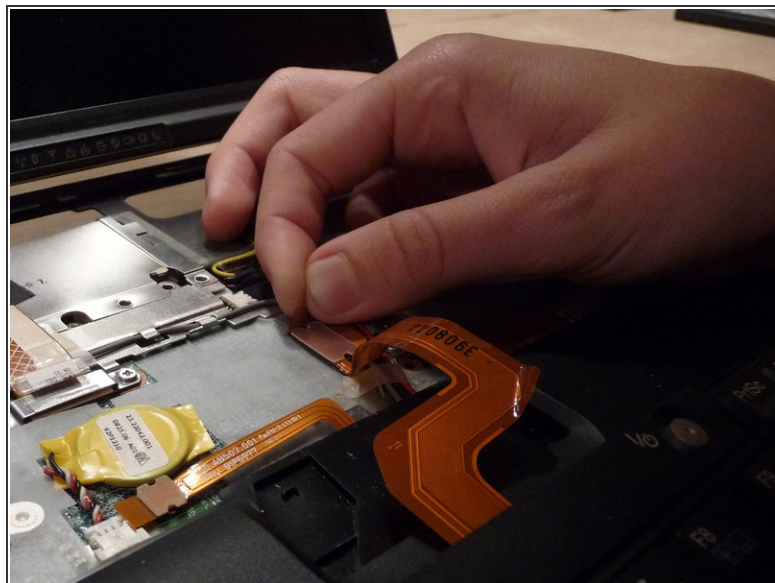
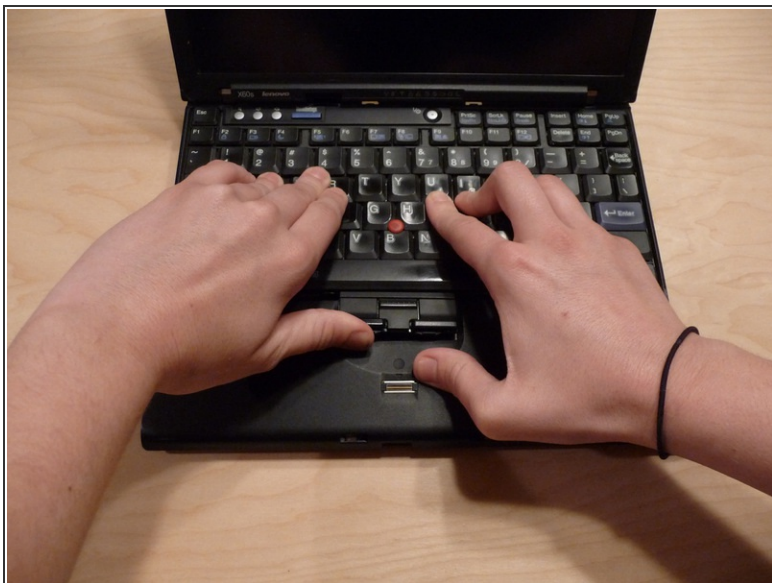
- Unscrew the two black Phillips #1 screws securing the RAM cover plate.
- ⓘ These screws will remain attached the the cover plate.
- Remove the exposed RAM sticks by prying outward (away from the edges of the RAM sticks) on the securing tabs.

Step 5



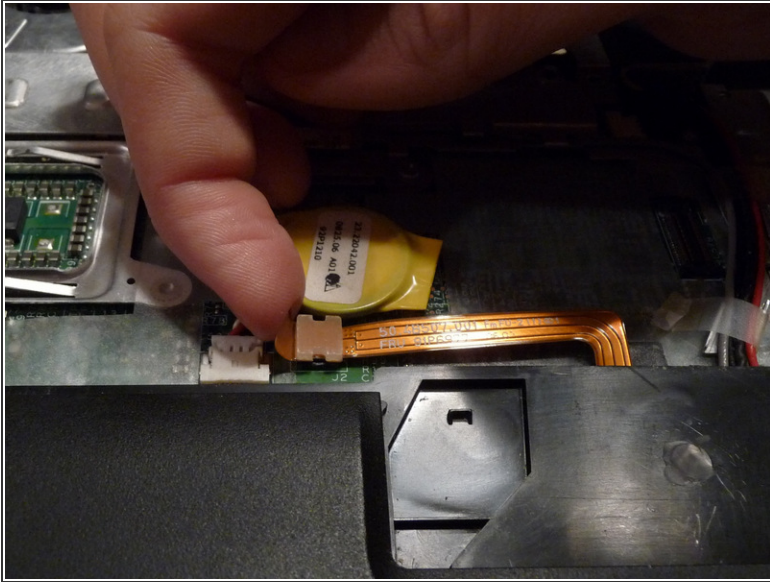
- Unscrew the eleven black 6mm Phillips #1 screws securing the keyboard and palmrest.
- Flip the laptop over.

Step 6



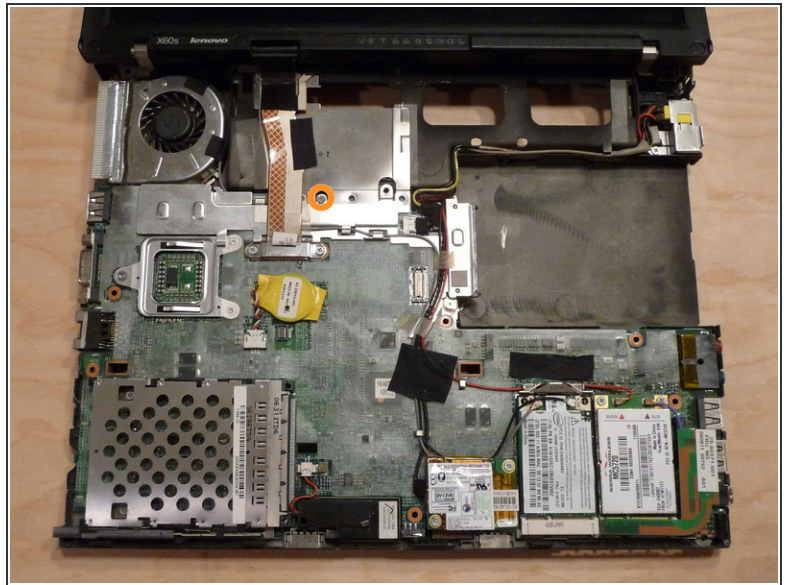
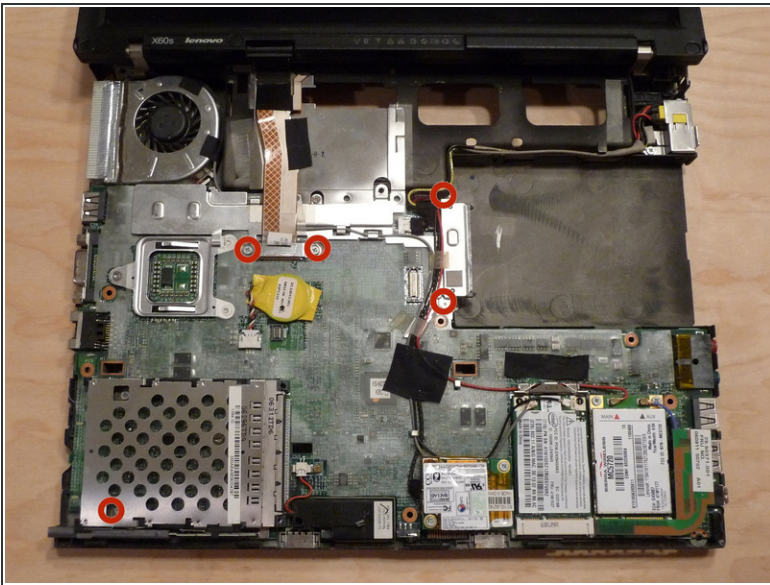
- Simultaneously complete the following:
 - Push the keyboard backwards (away from yourself) with both hands.
 - Pry your thumb under the mouse buttons to lift the keyboard upwards (away from the work surface).
- Pull up to detach the keyboard ribbon tab.

Step 7



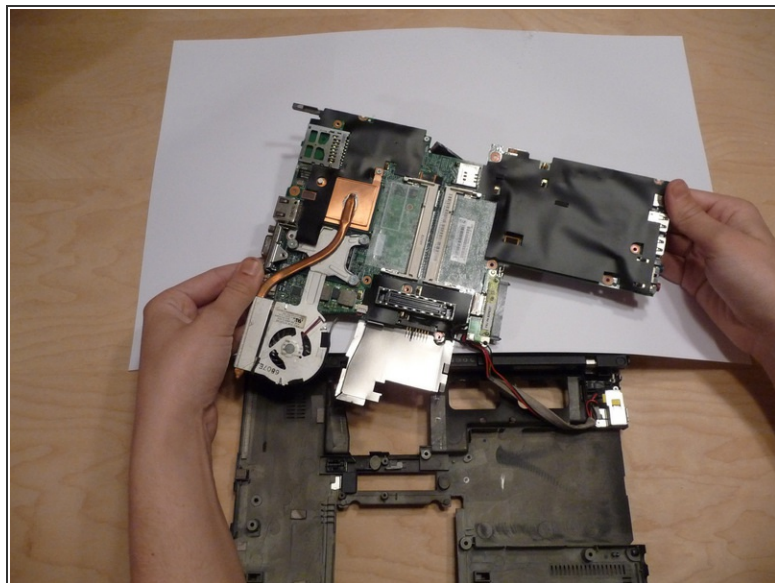
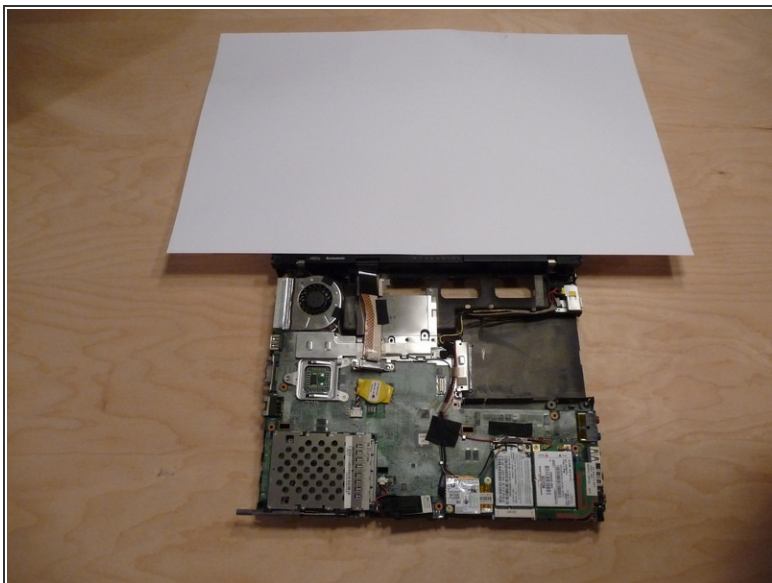
- Pull up to detach the fingerprint scanner ribbon tab.
- Lift up on the faceplate to remove it.

Step 8



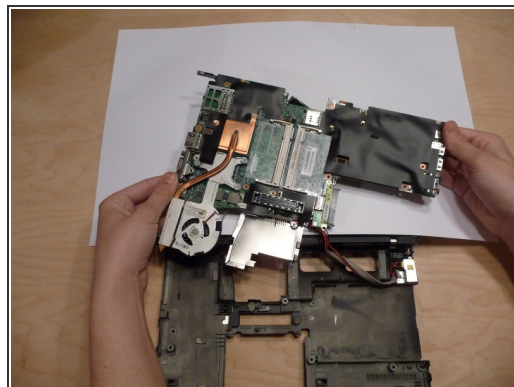
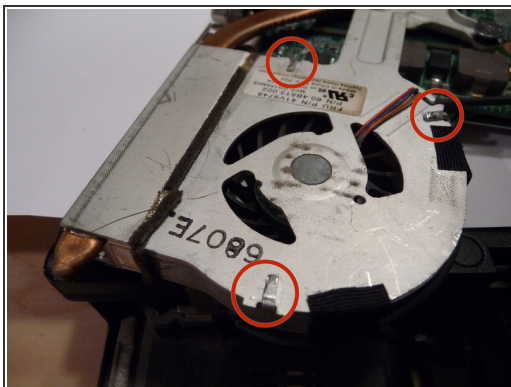
- Unscrew the five silver 3mm Phillips #1 screws securing the motherboard.
- Unscrew the silver 7mm Phillips #1 screw securing the motherboard.

Step 9



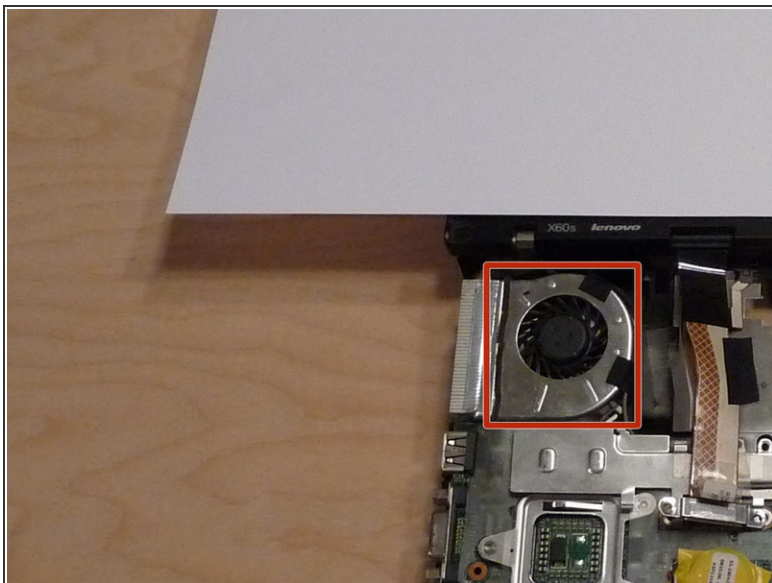
- ❗ (Optional) Lay a piece of paper, or other protective material, over the laptop screen.
- Flip the motherboard over onto the screen (or protective material).
- ❗ Flipping the motherboard over should not require forceful motion.
- ⚠ Take extreme care not to damage any ribbon cables or wires still connected to the motherboard.

Step 10



- Pry back the three metal tabs on the now-exposed underside of the fan housing with needle-nose pliers.
- Flip the motherboard back over.
- ⓘ Flipping the motherboard over should not require forceful motion.
- ⚠ Take extreme care not to damage any ribbon cables or wires still connected to the motherboard.

Step 11



- Lift the metal housing off of the fan.
- ⓘ There may be foil tape securing the housing. If so, remove it carefully in order to put it back after replacing the fan spindle.
- Remove and replace the fan spindle.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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